

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 L-03 H-02 AID-05 CEA-01

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R 271647Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6924

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 1145

FROM AG ATTACHE - PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR EI

SUBJ: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUGAR HEARINGS

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PRICES REFER FAS REPORT IL 5016 OF MAY 9 1975. UP DATES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GIVEN BELOW.

2. (A) IRELAND PRODUCES SUGA4 BY CONTINUOUS PROCESS TO REFINED STATE AND NO FIGURES EXIST FOR PRODUCTION TO RAW STATE. CURRENT VARIABLE COSTS, INCLUDING COST OF BEET AND IMPORTED RAW SUGAR, FUEL, LABOR, REPAIRS ETC. FOR PRODUCTION TO REFINED STATE, GIVEN US IN CONFIDENCE BY IRISH SUGAR CO., ARE 17 CENTS PER LB. CONVERTED AT 1 POUND STERLING EQUALS 2.30 US DOLLARS. AFTER BEET PULP SALES ARE DEDUCTED COST IS 15 CENTS PER LB.

(B) RETAIL PRICE IS 27 CENTS PER LB. AND WHOLESALE PRICE IS NOW 24 CENTS PER LB.

(C) UNIT VALUE OF 1974 REFINED SUGAR EXPORTS WAS 15 CENTS PER LB., CONVERTED AT 1 POUND STERLING EQUALS 2.35 US DOLLARS.

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KD, E) PRODUCTION DURING 1975 IS PROJECTED AT 199,000 METRIC

TONS, RAW VALUE. THIS IS FULL CAPACITY OF FACTORIES. RECENT FARM PRICE INCREASES MAKE SUGAR ATTRACTIVE CROP TO FARMERS. IF THIS RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES PRODUCTION SHOULD REMAIN AT THIS LEVEL. SUGAR COMPANY DOES HAVE PROVISIONAL PLANS TO EXTEND PROCESSING CAPACITY FROM CURRENT 13,100 LONG TONS OF BEET PER DAY TO 15,800 TONS PER DAY, OR AN INCREASE OF 20 PERCENT. IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS DEPENDS ON (1) FARMER PRODUCTION ABOVE (2) WORLD DEMAND (3) EC POLICY AND QUOTAS (4) AVAILABILITY OF CAPITAL. WE SUGGEST PRODUCTION MAY INCREASE 6 - 10 PERCENT BY 1980 IF CONDITIONS CONTINUE FAVORABLE. IF EC POLICY BECOMES VERY FAVORABLE TO EC PRODUCERS, INCREASE MAY BE FULL 20 PERCENT.

(F) A HOME CONSUMPTION GROWTH NOT EXCEEDING 1 - 2 PERCENT PER ANNUM ANTICIPATED BY IRISH SUGAR CO., IN LINE WITH EXPECTED POPULATION GROWTH.

(G) WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY LONG TERM EXPORT COMMITMENTS BY IRELAND EXCEPT AGREEMENTS BY EC.

(H) IRISH SUGAR COMPANY IS SEMI-STATE MONOPOLY COMPANY BUT WITH FAIRLY FREE HAND. GOI CONTROL HOME MARKET WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES THROUGH NATIONAL PRICES COMMISSION. TRADE AND PRODUCTION IS SUBJECT TO EC REGULATIONS AND QUOTAS.

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